

Sample Slab Update #13 – August 2016

The newsletter for sample slab collectors
Special World's Fair of Money All-PCGS issue

Book News – Second Edition Launches at the Anaheim ANA

The second edition of Sample Slabs debuted at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Anaheim, California on August 9. I filled two wholesale orders and sold several copies retail. With pre-sales complete and the show over, the book is now available at SampleSlabBook.com for \$26 plus \$5 shipping or on eBay for slightly more.

The expanded second edition of Sample Slabs includes:

- 760 slabs (180 more than the first edition)
- 35 grading services (3 more than the first edition)
- 900+ photos (b&w in softcover, color in PDF, 300 more than the first edition)
- 620 pages at 8 1/2" by 5 1/2" (175 more than the first edition)
- Prices for all items based on detailed market research

Market Notes from the World's Fair of Money

Regency Sample - For collectors of vintage sample slabs, the biggest news at the ANA was the discovery of a PCGS Regency sample. California dealer [Mike Kittle](#) found the holder on the bourse from a seller who said that two exist and that he planned to keep one. The Byron Reed Collection pedigree refers to a real estate developer who endowed the Durham Museum in Omaha to display his coin and other collections.

Made around 1994, (the exact dates are unclear) the Regency slab was intended as a way for collectors to showcase their best coins. With maybe 700 made, all Regency holders are highly valued by slab collectors and PCGS enthusiasts. See [this Coin World article](#) or [this CoinWeek article](#) for overviews of the Regency.

Valuing this sample is difficult because no good comparables exist. About half of the Regency holders in existence contain 1958 Israel 5 lirot coins (worth about \$20 raw) pedigreed to comedian Danny Kaye. Prices for these are \$400 to \$800. Other Regency slabs are difficult to value because most hold valuable coins, meaning much of the sale price comes from the coin instead of the holder. As a vintage PCGS sample believed to be one of two, this one could set a new price record.



I chose not to ask Mike what he paid for the slab. He is doing research before deciding whether to sell and the holder was displayed in his case with a “Not Currently for Sale” label. I know, however, that Mike received an eyebrow-raising offer.



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Another day at the ANA, more chances to earn a #pcgsmedal. Visit @pcgscoin booth 202 for d...
ift.tt/2aMLMMs



PCGS 30th Anniversary Medal – You probably already know that PCGS gave away a 30th Anniversary medal in a retro green holder to each member who submitted 25 coins at the June Long Beach or August ANA shows. At the ANA, in addition, a member could earn a medal by showing they had the PCGS apps on their phone, doing some quick social media posts, and having their photo taken. That’s me in the lower left. See [#pcgsmedal](#) on Twitter. I don’t know if this offer will extend to other shows, but I know the medals are desirable collectibles, selling for \$80 or more on eBay.

Grading Set / Photograde Link Found – In the [previous issue](#), I discussed the several holders from the PCGS grading set that recently came onto the market. The grading set is made up of coins meant to be ideal examples of their grades, as training tools and to help grading consistency. A few more holders and a little more information on the set appeared, and we now know that PCGS chose to deaccession some of their

grading set, as graders can easily use high-quality photos instead of checking out coins from the set. The more valuable coins were sold, but at least one employee (I do not know who) chose to buy some low-priced coins from the company.

I purchased two 1937-S Buffalo nickels, both in XF45, with consecutive serial numbers of G1164 and G1165. On a friend’s advice, I checked the coins against the PCGS Photograde app, which displays ideal examples of US coins in each grade. Every mark on G1164 matches the XF45 Buffalo in the app. That is, if you use Photograde to evaluate an XF45 Buffalo, you are comparing with my coin. If you own a coin from the grading set, check if you have the Photograde coin.

Luncheon Slab – I had the opportunity to attend my first PCGS luncheon at the ANA on August 12. Like all of the collectors, I enjoyed the people, the buffet, and a Q. David Bowers presentation on the [PCGS CoinFacts Coin Dealer Hall of Fame](#) 2016 inductee Augustus Sage. For a sample slab enthusiast, an additional highlight was a luncheon slab holding the 30th Anniversary medal, with 150 made. Considering the value of the ordinary medals, it should have an above-average price. Mine is not going on eBay – I’m keeping it as a souvenir of the luncheon and show.



Sample Slab Collector Meeting

On the evening of Wednesday August 10, Sample Slab Update readers held an informal meeting of sample collectors at the Anaheim Hilton. Although seven people is not a large number, this was probably the largest gathering of sample slab collectors so far. We shared samples, discussed the market, and met collectors previously known only from Web forums and emails. This was a rare opportunity to discuss our collecting interest. I probably won't be at future ANA shows (until it returns to my area), but would be happy to help organize another Sample Slab Update meeting.

PCGS Museum of Coin Holders

PCGS did a great service to slab collectors by creating the lavishly illustrated PCGS Museum of Coin Holders. Available at <http://www.pcg.com/holders>, these pages show the generations and sub-generations of PCGS products, including dates of manufacture. For example, they place the doily at September – October 1989. If I had started my work later, I would have used these official six generations instead of the five generations used in Sample Slabs. At the ANA, PCGS gave away posters showing the holder generations on request, without membership or other requirements. These could appear at other major shows.

Buying and Selling

PCGS 2016 Kangaroo club slab – PCGS-Unlisted.

PCGS makes few holders for local organizations. For the special occasion of the World's Fair of Money, they agreed to make a special label for the joint meeting of the Glendale Coin Club and Verdugo Hills Coin Club at the convention. All have the "1 of 100" number, giving the number of holders made. Don't expect more PCGS club slabs to appear – this was a one-time (or at

least infrequent) favor to clubs. Also, club slabs usually have low value coins instead of the 2016 Australia Kangaroo 1 ounce silver round that sells for about \$24. I reserved one ahead of the convention, but then happened to receive another in a drawing, which is yours for \$50.



PCGS Green Label No-date Buffalo Nickel Sample – PCGS-005-3-2. Early PCGS holders marked SAMPLE are some of the most desirable sample slabs, and this one catalogs for \$225. Two are available for \$200 each.

Three PCGS Treasure Hunt slabs discounted for Sample Slab Update readers

- PCGS-010-9-2 - 2014-D dime. 524448.80/30828014. Page 460 of the second edition. \$25
- PCGS-025-9-16 - 2013-D Mount Rushmore quarter. 546595.63/32964744. page 499. \$30
- PCGS-025-9-18 - 2015-S Kisatchie quarter. 546596.63/32964767. page 501. \$30

Take all three for \$75

All slabs ship for free. To order any of the above, send PayPal to davidschwager@hotmail.com.



I am always a buyer for scarce slabs for my collection, or for groups of samples for resale. For example, I am interested in early luncheon slabs, especially PCGS-025-4-20 with a New York quarter and the label “CU Forum Lunch Crew.”

If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please email me.

Sample Slab Update #13 – August 2016 (sent 8/13/16). By David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See SampleSlabBook.com for past issues.